



**R. Booth Goodwin II, United States Attorney
Southern District of West Virginia**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 21 2011

<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/wvs/>

CONTACT: Melvin Smith
800-659-8726*(304)345-2200
Melvin.Smith@usdoj.gov

WEIRTON WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FEDERAL DRUG CHARGES

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Alicia Ciccarelli, 25, of Weirton, West Virginia pleaded guilty today before United States District Judge Thomas E. Johnston on federal drug charges. Ciccarelli pleaded guilty to a single count information charging her with aiding and abetting the possession with intent to distribute a quantity of heroin. Ciccarelli admitted that January 16, 2011, she picked up two associates near Pittsburgh and traveled to the Charleston area. Ciccarelli further admitted that she knew one of her associates was in possession of heroin at the time. On the same day, police stopped her vehicle near Charleston, West Virginia. Prior to a search of the vehicle, one of her associates asked to remove a dog that was traveling with the group. As the associate removed the dog from the vehicle, he also obtained an item from a duffel bag. Police retrieved an item that the male associate subsequently threw into some bushes located near the vehicle. The item seized by police contained 55 individual packets of heroin, which Ciccarelli admitted the associate traveling with her intended to distribute in the Southern District of West Virginia.

Ciccarelli faces up to 20 years in prison and a \$1 million fine when she is sentenced on June 27, 2011.

The investigation was conducted by the West Virginia State Police. Assistant United States Attorney Monica Schwartz is handling the prosecution.

###